

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUBUMB 00237 161020Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 CU-04 AID-05 PC-01 OPR-02 IO-13
SSO-00 /101 W
-----004934 161531Z /53

R 161000Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2335
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUBUMBASHI 0237

KINSHASA PASS BUKAVU

E. O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PINS PINR CG
SUBJECT: LUBUMBASHI REACTION TO ZAIRIAN COUP PLOT TRIAL

REF: (A) LUBUMBASHI 0191, (B) KINSHASA 2351 AND OTHERS

1. IN DAYS FOLLOWING FIRST UFRESTS OF SHABAN AND KASAIAN
PLOFTERS IN KINSHASA, MANY ZAIRIANS IN LUBUMBASHI WAITED
NERVOUSLY FOR SIMILAR GOVERNMENT ACTION IN SHAVA. POLICE
SECURITY IN LUBUMBASHI WAS TIGHTER FOR FOLLOWING WEEK THAN
AT ANY TIME SIVKE OUTBREAK OF SHABAN WAR IN 1977. EXCEPT
FOR HARASSMENT OF THOSE UNFORTUNATELY ENOUGH TO APPROACH
BARRICADES AT NIGHT, AUTHORITIES TOOK NO ACTION AND MADE
NO ARRESTS.

2. TRIAL HAS GENERATED MORE THAN NORMAL INTEREST IN
LUBUMBASHI BECAUSE LOCAL FAMILY TIES OF MANY OF ACCUSED.
MOST OF ALLEGED CONSPIRATORS, DESPITE DIVERSE ORIGINS
GREQ UP AND ATTENDED SECONDARY SCHOOL IN LUBUMBASHI.
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MANY WERE SENT TO BELGIAN MILITARY SCHOOLS BY TSHOMBE
GOVERNMENT IN EARLY 1960'S BUT AFTER UNIFICATION WERE
INTEGRATED INTO ZAIRIAN MILITARY, LARGELY IN TECHNICAL
AND ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS.

3. LOCAL SOURCES SAY THAT MOST OF ACCUSED WERE APOLITICAL.
IF THEY HAD VIEWS ON GOVERNMENT THEY KEPT THEM TO THEMSELVES.

MAJOR FRUSTRATION FOR MANY WAS KNOWLEDGE THAT OFFICERS FROM COMBAT UNITS AND OTHER PARTS OF ZAIRE WERE BEING PROMOTED MORE RAPIDLY.

4. WHILE TRIAL IS TOPIC OF FREQUENT DISCUSSION REACTION HAS BEEN VARIED. FAMILIES OF ACCUSED WHO ARE WORRIED ABOUT FUTURE FOR THE PLOTTERS AND POSSIBLE REPERCUSSION FOR THEMSELVES REMAIN SUSPICIOUSLY SILENT IN THE PRESENCE OF ZAIRIANS FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. INTELLECTUALS AT UNIVERSITY ARE SKEPTICAL ABOUT PLOT AND APATHETIC ABOUT PROCEEDINGS. SHABANS WHO HAVE HAD RECENT RUN-INS WITH AUTHORITIES HAVE NOTED MORE THAN NORMAL INFERENCES THAT SHABANS DESERVE LITTLE JUSTICE BECAUSE OF THEIR CONNECTION WITH COUP PLOTTERS.

5. HOSTILITY ERUPTED EVENING OF MARCH 15-16 WHEN LIGHTED PHOTO OF MOBUTU IN CENTER OF TOWN NEAR POST OFFICE WAS DESTROYED. THIS IS FIRST TIME IN PAST TWO YEARS THAT UBIQUITOUS PHOTOS ON SIGNBOARDS CLAIMING MOBUTU AS "OUR SOLE GUIDE" OR "OUR ONLY HOPE" HAVE BEEN DISFIGURED. THERE IS SPECULATION THAT ONLY SOLDIERS WOULD HAVE DARED SUCH AN ACT. SOLDIER FRUSTRATION REPORTEDLY DUE NOT ONLY TO ANGER OVER ALLEGED ROLE OF SOLDIERS IN PLOT BUT ALSO TO DETERIORATION OF LIVING STANDARDS AND HOSTILITY BETWEEN LOCAL GENDARME UNITS AND RECENTLY ARRIVED

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"ELITEZ KAMANYOLA UNITS.

6. LUBUMBASHI REMAINS QUIET, BUT CONSIDERABLE NERVOUS TENSION EXISTS JUST BELOW THE SURFACE.

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